
Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

May 2025

May 2025

Saturday 3rd, 8.00am, Men's Breakfast, The Harcourt Arms

Wednesday 7th, 10am to 12pm, Coffee at the Chapel

Saturday 10th

- **10.30am**, Village Litter Pick – meet at the Village Hall
- **12pm to 2pm**, Annual Village Meeting & Village Market, Village Hall
- **7.00pm**, VE Day 80 Celebration, Village Hall

Monday 12th, 7.30pm, Meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner, to discuss speeding and traffic management. ALL WELCOME. Village Hall.

Monday 19th, 7.30pm, Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall

June 2025

Wednesday 4th, 10am to 12pm, Coffee at the Chapel

Saturday 7th, 8.00am, Men's Breakfast, The Harcourt Arms

Saturday 14th, 12pm to 2pm, Annual Village Meeting & Village Market, Village Hall

Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd FESTIVAL WEEK
NB Due to the late Parish Council mtg in May there is no meeting in June. Next meeting 7th July.

Regulars (please see back page)

Every Thursday – Lunch Club

Every Monday and Thursday – Yoga with Alison Usher-Wilson

Every Tuesday (term time) – 7pm Sutton Singers

Every Tuesday and Wednesday – Pilates with Nicky Holmes

Every Tuesday – Senior Badminton (Tony Baker on 0x 882576)

Every Thursday (term time) – Zumba

Parish Council News

Litter Pick

There was a good turnout for the 1st litter pick of 2025 on Saturday 12 April Thank you Steve Cosier and Judith Holder for organising the Event and all who took part. We collected several bags of rubbish, a broken wheelie bin and part of a car. Unfortunately, it is a constant battle to keep litter under control requiring regular litter picks, the next will be on Saturday 10 May before the Village Market

Village Meeting

The PC is hosting the annual village meeting on Saturday 10 May in the Village Hall alongside the Village Market. Although everyone is very welcome at our regular council meetings, this is your meeting to come and meet the councillors; raise topics, issues and concerns; and find out about the many local clubs and organisations that make Stanton Harcourt and Sutton a great place to live

The Old Guardroom

The Old Guardroom now has WIFI, the network name and password are available in the Old Guardroom

Traffic Signs

We have now received the two VAS signs which Volker Highways will be installing in the next few weeks. These long-awaited signs will alert drivers to slow down and keep to 20mph through the village. These signs alone may not be enough to slow traffic sufficiently; we are also working with OCC (Oxford County Council) to include painted chevrons and optical road narrowing in the resurfacing work of the B4449 that is being done during May.

Community Speedwatch

Tom Elliott-Frey has taken on organising the Community speed watch for Stanton Harcourt and Sutton. We've seen a noticeable increase in speeding through both Sutton and Stanton Harcourt and if you're concerned about road safety in our villages and want to make a positive impact, this is your chance to get involved. Volunteers will help monitor traffic speeds in key areas, working together to raise awareness and encourage safer driving. It's a great way to give back to your community and help keep our roads safer for everyone. For more information and to volunteer contact Tom at telliottfrey@gmail.com

Sutton Weight Restriction

The PC is organising an initiative to address the HGV traffic through Sutton. We are moving forward with a clear call for a 7.5-tonne weight restriction (except for access) to be introduced through Sutton village. The campaign is focused on safety, sustainability, and preserving the character of our rural roads. Geoff Webster is leading this initiative for the Parish Council and has set up a petition to register the community's opinion. For more information see the article later in this edition and contact Geoff at geoff@shpc.co.uk

Police and Crime Commissioner.

Stanton Harcourt is hosting the PCC at the Village Hall on Monday 12 May this is being organised by Steve Cosier our District Councillor and covered under Monthly Report from West Oxfordshire.

Parish Council meeting date change

Due to this meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner the Parish Council meeting is moved to the 19th May

- Annual meeting of the Parish Council at 7pm
- Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council at 7:30pm

Keith Hickson, Chair, Stanton Harcourt Parish Council

Monthly Report from West Oxford District Councillor Steve Cosier (SASH)

Bablock Hythe – Response from Minister (DEFRA)

In February I wrote to Emma Hardy, the minister for the Department for Environmental Food and Rural Affairs, about the ongoing flooding issues in Bablock Hythe, and the push for better support for our community. I received a response from the Minister and wanted to share the key points.

The Minister acknowledged the serious impact the flooding had on residents and appreciated how difficult the situation had been. They stated that while landowners are responsible for maintaining watercourses, the Environment Agency (EA) carried out targeted maintenance in high-risk areas and operated a flood warning service to help communities prepare when flooding was likely. On the two key issues I raised, de-designating rivers and Streamlining EA permits, the Minister confirmed that the process was complex and there were no current plans to simplify it through legislation. On the issue of streamlining EA permits it was confirmed that restructuring has begun to deliver a more efficient

permitting process for river maintenance. While some progress had been made. I remained firmly on the side of Bablock Hythe residents and all those affected by flooding in the area. I now have a meeting scheduled with the EA's Thames Area Flood Risk Manager in May to discuss how the EA can work with its partners and the local community to alleviate flood -risk. I will report back in due course.

Become a Biodiversity Volunteer with Oxfordshire County Council

Are you wild for wildlife? Join Oxfordshire County Council's Biodiversity Team and play a vital role in protecting the county's legally protected species and habitats. As a Biodiversity Volunteer, you'll gain hands-on experience surveying some of our most iconic wildlife—from bats and badgers to newts and otters—while learning valuable ecological skills in the field. This flexible volunteer opportunity welcomes individuals with a passion for the environment and a willingness to work as part of a friendly, knowledgeable team. Volunteers support essential surveys and conservation work across Oxfordshire, helping to ensure local biodiversity is maintained and enhanced for future generations.

No formal experience is required—just enthusiasm, reliability, and a love for nature. In return, you'll receive ecological training, be fully insured, and get the chance to explore some of Oxfordshire's most beautiful landscapes, all while making a real difference. Please contact: Jack Wheeler, Biodiversity Officer jack.wheeler@oxfordshire.gov.uk, if you're interested or have any questions.

climateactionoxfordshire.org.uk/actions/gardenbiodiversity/become-biodiversity-volunteer.

You can contact me with any questions -

steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk

Take care, Steve

Your Parish Councillors are

James Coleman // jim@shpc.co.uk

Sandra Cosier // sandra@shpc.co.uk

Keith Hickson (chair) // keith@shpc.co.uk

Geoff Webster // geoff@shpc.co.uk

Joe Deane // joe@shpc.co.uk

Parish Council Information:

All official communications should be addressed to the Parish Clerk:

Trudi Gasser, 5 Woodlands, Standlake, Oxon, OX29 7RA.

clerk@shpc.co.uk

Your West Oxfordshire District Councillors is:

Steve Cosier

- Email: steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk

Your Oxfordshire County Councillor is:

Dan Levy

- Mobile: 07852 748362
- Email: dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your Member of Parliament is:

Charlie Maynard

- Email: charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk

Cricket at the Club – Join the Fun!

Starting Friday, 2nd May at 6pm, the cricket club will be hosting All Stars and Dynamos sessions, running for 8 weeks (with a short break for half term).

- All Stars is perfect for 5–8 year olds, offering a fun and friendly introduction to cricket.
- Dynamos is aimed at 8–11 year olds who want to give the game a go and build their skills.

To find out more, just search online for “ECB All Stars” or “ECB Dynamos.”

Meanwhile, senior matches kick off on Saturday, 10th May, with a home game every Saturday throughout the summer. Come along to support your local team and enjoy refreshments at our licensed bar!

Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Village Dog Show

Akeden, Sutton Lane OX29 5RY

12pm / Sat June 15th

*****join us for a tail-wagging good time*****

RINGSIDE PARKING. Rosettes and prizes. Kick off at 12 midday for entries, scent demonstration by Paw Behaviour

and Have a go scent fun 50p a go all afternoon. Entries £2 a class or £5 for 3 classes. Fun for all the family. Many thanks to all our sponsors and stalls.

We hope you can join us to raise money for the fabulous Thames Valley Air Ambulance who need our support, as well as just having a good, friendly day out! For details contact Steph 01865 964811



Over 60 bikes to sell, full proceeds to Asylum Welcome **(www.asylum-welcome.org)**

Any types and sizes, Gents and ladies and few junior bikes. All of high end, top brands (highly stealable if distributed to our clients). All fully and professionally serviced, selling at almost half their average second-hand shop prices. Message me for further details and photos and to arrange a visit and test ride.

dearnasser@hotmail.com

07799838554 (text messages only please)

Café at the Chapel



Every first
Wednesday of the month
Wednesday 7th May
10.00 – 12.00



FRESH ROASTED COFFEE / SELECTION OF TEAS
TOASTED TEACAKES, CRUMPETS AND HOT BUTTERED
TOAST.

BOOKS AND GIFTS SALE TABLE TO BROWSE
WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!

Church Times

St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt **Lower Windrush Benefice**

*****Evening Prayer said most Mondays and Thursdays at 4pm*****

Sunday 4th May 0830 Holy Communion (BCP) followed by breakfast

Sunday 11th May 1000 Benefice Holy Communion

Wednesday evenings at 8:30pm we have a short service of Compline via Zoom. Thursday mornings we have Early Bird Prayer at 7:30am via Zoom. All Zoom codes can be found on www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org

For more information about all services taking place in the Benefice (Stanton Harcourt, Northmoor, Standlake, Yelford) please visit the Lower Windrush Benefice website: www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org

Sutton Chapel

Sun 11th May

3.00pm Holy Communion, led by Rev'd Sue Jacobs

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church **Evnsam**

For information about services at St Peter's please visit www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/

Deadline for next issue is 20th of the month
village-voice@hotmail.co.uk

While we try to ensure the accuracy of information in Village Voice, readers use the information at their own risk. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor. Inclusion of an advertisement does not indicate endorsement of the product, service or event being advertised.

The Stanton Harcourt Royal British Legion
are celebrating

VE DAY 80

7pm till late on
Saturday 10th May

Featuring
The Clive Fortune Big Band
Licensed Bar, Fish & Chip Van and...
Boogie Woogie!!
Village Hall, Stanton Harcourt, OX29 5SB
Tickets £12 per person

**Book your
tickets
here**



Or tickets are available in
the Village Shop

*****Village Shop & Post Office*****

SHOP ONLY IS OPEN EVERY DAY

FROM 0800 TO 1000

(THE POST OFFICE IS NOT OPEN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)



Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Summer Festival 2025 “A Century of Television”

A reminder that Festival 2025 will be celebrating the joys of television!

The key dates to remember are:

Festival Events: 14th June to 22nd June

Festival Day: Saturday 21st June 2025

Congratulations to our 2025 Festival “Royals”

Emma Apps is our 2025 Festival Queen and we are pleased to announce that our Festival Attendant this year will be Elodie Fleet. Elodie will take over from Emma as Festival Queen in 2026. Our Festival Prince will be Harry Ind and our Festival Princess is Alice Rideout. Congratulations to Emma, Elodie, Harry and Alice. We look forward to cheering them on during the parade on Festival Day.

Festival Day Parade: An invitation to join the procession!

Like last year, we plan to have a fancy dress walking parade following behind the royal carriage and we are inviting all village residents and children to join in the procession. We are hoping to see a whole colourful array of favourite television characters marching along to music through the village to celebrate our theme. So do start planning your costumes now and we hope to see as many of you as possible joining in! There will be prizes available for the best costumes on display on the day and children are welcome to ride bikes or scooters if they would like - decorated ideally! The parade will start on Blackditch (next to Willowbrook) and process from there along Main Road and onto the school field. All children taking part in the parade will need to be supervised by their parents or carers at all times.

A Century of Television - Scarecrow Competition

We will be rolling out the bunting to celebrate festival and invite you all to add to the village decorations by entering our Scarecrow competition. We will be offering prizes for the best TV themed Scarecrows on display in gardens in the weeks leading up to festival this summer so start planning your display now!

And a quick reminder that:

- If you want to run a stall on the school field on Festival Day contact Lucy on 07775 604466 (email lucylowe1974@gmail.com.)

- If you are interested in holding an event during festival week contact Keith Hickson.
- (07764 132178, email keith@shpc.co.uk)
- If you have a local business and would like to place an advert in the Festival Programme booklet then contact Gill (gill@gillmason.com)

For other information about Festival email Jo Wilby at jowilby@hotmail.co.uk The Festival Committee

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Hosted by your Parish Council
Saturday 10th May 12pm to 2pm
Stanton Harcourt Village Hall
(alongside the Village Market)

...an opportunity to...

- MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS
- RAISE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION
- FIND OUT ABOUT THE MANY LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS
- MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

200 Club

May Draw

B Buckley.	1st prize / 201	£25
P Jacob.	2nd prize / 238	£12
P Taylor.	3rd prize / 174	£8
E Floyd.	4th prize / 189	£5

Village Market & Cafe 2025

Our monthly Market & Café is back from February – a very popular meeting place for villagers to enjoy coffee or bacon rolls & soup and browse the stalls. It's all in aid of Village Hall funds, so a good village cause, that warrants everyone's support! Dates for your diary...

May 10th
June 14th
July 12th
August 9th

September 13th
October 11th
November 8th
December 13th

FREE ENTRY!!!

Sutton Village 2025

Classic Vehicle Show

Tuesday June 17th

"Akeden"
Sutton Lane
Sutton
OX29 5RY

From 6pm onwards

• CARS • TRACTORS • BIKES •
• LIGHT COMMERCIALS •

BBQ • Refreshments • Tombola
Aunt Sally Competition!
On-site toilets

- Cash only please -
Proceeds to St Michaels Church & Sunshine Cat Rescue

More Info 07795 371294

Protecting Sutton

A Campaign to Stop the HGVs

By Stanton Harcourt Parish Council

Over the past year, residents of Sutton have been increasingly affected by a rise in heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) using the village as a shortcut to reach the Blackditch Trading Estate. As many of you will know first-hand, these vehicles are large, loud, and far too frequent for our narrow, rural roads.

At our last Parish Council meeting, we formally agreed to back a community-led campaign calling for a **7.5-tonne weight restriction**, with an exception for access (for example, deliveries, farms, and residents). This is a simple, sensible measure to help prevent Sutton becoming a freight corridor at the expense of safety and quality of life.

The issue is not just about traffic—it's about people. With no pavements in places, our roads are used daily by children walking to school, dog walkers, cyclists, and those simply trying to enjoy village life. The rise in HGV traffic has created a real and growing risk.

In response, we have launched a **public petition** to demonstrate local support for action, which you can sign online:

🔗 **Protect Sutton Petition – Click here** or type this url into your browser <https://tinyurl.com/SuttonWeightLimit>

📄 Flyers with a scannable QR code will also be placed on noticeboards and through letterboxes.

We are also preparing campaign packs, letters to councillors, and gathering evidence to present to Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

How You Can Help

- Sign the petition and share it with neighbours and friends
- Write to your local councillors to voice your concerns (template letters available)
- Share any photos or accounts of HGV issues with us—we're collecting local stories and evidence - email to geoff@shpc.co.uk

This isn't about opposing business or progress—it's about fairness, safety, and making sure our rural communities are treated with the respect they deserve.

Thank you to everyone who has already voiced their support. With your help, we can restore peace to Sutton's roads and protect our way of life.

📣 **Sign the petition and help stop** 📣
📣 **the HGV shortcut through Sutton!** 📣

LITTER PICKERS REQUIRED

Meeting at 1030 at the Village Hall so that we can decide how to divide our efforts. We could then finish back at the Village hall and enjoy some of their delicious food. I really hope we can get a good bunch of us together to tackle this. Please put the following dates in your diaries....!

Saturday 10 May / Saturday 14 June / Saturday 12 July

I will come with a supply of litter picker uppers, and some bin bags, and some high viz jackets but please bring your own gloves and if you have any picker uppers and high viz gear of your own, then that would be helpful.

Email me if you can, to let me know you are joining us, because gosh we need as much help as we can get....

Judith holderjudith@yahoo.ca

THE THURSDAY CLUB

We meet every Thursday at Northmoor Village Hall between 12:00 and 2 pm. **COOKS NEEDED.** We have several local volunteer cooks who work on a rota basis providing traditional food, but need more people to help ease the pressure on our existing cooks. If you feel you could help out generally or by cooking dinners or puddings, please contact Anna on 01865 881363 / Michael on 01865 3004480 or pop in and see us one week between 12.00pm and 2.00pm

Zumba Classes

Thursday evenings 6.30pm- Stanton Harcourt Village Hall (term time) if you love to dance, learn new routines, make new friends while having fun & getting fit, you'll love zumba- all abilities welcome. Classes are £6 per session. For more information please contact Debbie 07733081620/ debbiepargeter@gmail.com

Pilates, Personal Training and Breathwork with Nicky Holmes

Tuesdays – 5.15pm / Village Hall

Wednesdays – 10.10am and 11.20am, Guards Room

Classes start from £10 for a 6 week course – personal tuition is also available

Nicky specialises in rehabilitation from injury, improving posture, strength and flexibility work including breath work and relaxation techniques. Every class is varied, sometimes using equipment, stability balls, weights and foam rollers.

Numbers are limited as classes are small and personalised to each individual. info@physiquepilates.co.uk www.physiquepilates.co.uk Tel : 07949 764 966

Village Yoga 🧘🌸🙏

Anahata yoga (also known as village yoga) is a gentle flowing style of yoga, with an emphasis on linking our breath, our movements, and being present in each moment. We do this practice in the hope we can create some space to take out into the world. Please come and join us:

- **Mondays 6.15-7.15pm** The Old Guardroom, Stanton Harcourt
- **Thursdays 10-11am** Stanton Harcourt Village Hall- Drop In, no booking needed
- **Wednesday 2.30-3.30pm** Seated/Standing Class, The Old Guardroom

Please contact me for more information and to check spaces for the Monday and Wednesday classes, 0789 002 6446 or via alison@peacefulexistence.co.uk

All equipment provided and all classes are donation based

🌸 Peaceful Existence Yoga and Massage, based in Sutton Xx

Sutton Singers.

Sutton Singers meet on Tuesdays during term time at 7pm. Would you like to sing? Come and join in the joy and fun of singing together? No auditions needed. We welcome new members, have parties sometimes and our Musical Director - Lizzie Soden - is a joy to work with, fun, encouraging and says everyone can sing! If you just love singing but are not so keen on performance we are the choir for you! As a Community Choir we welcome everyone, and you never know - you may end up being inspired to perform?

Get in touch with Jan Tomlinson on phone: 01865 881709 or email: janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com

Sutton Singers are now working towards our Summer Festival Concert on Tuesday 17th June 7 for 7.30 sing. Do come along. More details in June Village Voice.

We are also joining up with another of Lizzie Soden's choirs for a joint concert at Milton Under Wychwood Church on Saturday 19th July.

We can't wait for The Beer Festival on Saturday 26th July. We are singing at 12.30pm and there will be many other performers as well as lots of beer, don't miss this fabulous event. See you there!!